

C I R C U SH I S T O R I C A LS O C I E T Y.Note Sheet No. 13.July 15th 1944.

Parade Line-up and Program - for the
HARGREAVES BIG RAILROAD CIRCUS

(20 cars)

Through courtesy
of A. Morton Smith
C.H.S.

Parade Line-up:-

Mounted couriers with bugles
Band Chariot - 14 pieces, 8-horse hitch
Fourteen mounted riders - men and women
Tableau, two ponies
Tableau, two ponies
Tableau, two ponies
Tableau, six horses
Ten ponies - led
Cakewalking horse
Mexican rough riders - mounted
Clown Cart with donkey
Tableau, two horses
Tableau, two horses
Roman chariot - two horses
Roman chariot - two horses
Roman chariot - four horses
Tableau - two horses
Tableau - two horses
Tableau - four horses
Tableau - Oriental band and Oriental
dancers - four horses.
Clown cart - drawn by pony
Clown cart - drawn by pony
Open den - tigers - four horses
Tableau, - four horses
Clown cart - drawn by donkey
Open den - lions and trainer, four horses
Tableau - four horses
Tableau - four horses
Cakewalking horse - King Fire.
Band tableau 12 pieces - six horses
Clown cart - drawn by pony
Elephant - "Jumbo" -
Camels.

Can any of our members give us more information of this parade, and
of this little-known circus? Who has any photos of same?

Program - Robert Stickney Jr., Equestrian Director. Two rings, stage
and track.

Grand opening spectacle

Prof. Barnes, with riding dog, Joe

Millie Barnes with riding monkey

Mabel Hall presenting the elephant "Jumbo"

Swinging Perch - Julia Orton

Double trapeze - Laxell Bros.

Nero - riding lion - Millie Barnes

Mary Lowande - female principal act

Prof. Barnes, dogs, ponies and goats

Lew Whittaker, performing donkeys

Barnard Orton - bounding rope

Will Hartwell, bounding wire

Four Campbells, aerial return and casting act

Prof. Barnes - educated ponies

Prof. Lockes, educated stallions

Johnnie Corella - America's boy somersault principal rider

Single trapeze - Nellie Leonard

Florence Troupe of 7 acrobats

Comic Mule Act - Prof. Barnes and William Felton

John Corella and son in "carrying act"

Hippodrome races - gents flat race, three horses; Clowns' sulkey race,
three ponies; high jumping horses; ladies flat race, four; Roman
standing race; horse against man, chariot race.

Educated Horse "King Fire" - Mabel Hall

An interesting account of the loss of the Steamer "Royal Tar" with a Menagerie Aboard - year 1836

Sent in to us through courtesy of Allen P. Wescott - C.H.S.

The "Royal Tar", Captain Reed, inaugurated the first regular steam-boat service between Maine and Nova Scotia (Canada) ports in 1836. She was a wooden side-wheeler, named for King William IV, and built at St. John, N.B., to run from that port to Portland, connecting there with the Boston steamers. She was 164 feet long, 24 feet beam, 400 tons, and cost \$50,000. On her first trip in May 1836, she carried 200 passengers.

A few months later, on October 25th 1836, while enroute from St. John to Portland, the "Royal Tar" was destroyed by fire in Penobscot Bay near the Fox Islands. She had on board between 90 and 100 passengers, including her crew and was transporting Burgess' collection of serpents and birds and Dexter's Museum and Band. (These combined shows had exhibited at Belfast, Me., on June 6th 1936. See the Bandwagon for December 1943). On deck were an elephant and two camels, several horses, and a number of cages of animals belonging to the caravan. Thirty-two persons were lost of whom four were attached to the caravan.

S. A. Rowland, in his "Steamboat Disasters and Railroad Accidents in the United States" (1840) says, "The animals on board were an elephant, six horses, 2 dromedaries, 2 lionesses, 1 leopard, 1 Bengal tiger, 1 Gnu, a pair of pelicans, and a number of other creatures belonging to the caravan besides Burgess' collection of serpents and birds, Dexter's Locomotive (?) Museum, with its six horses and valuable contents, and all the musical instruments belonging to the band. The unfortunate caravan men were paid off at St. John and were bringing home the proceeds of their expedition in specie - all of which they lost, and were left penniless. Six horses belonging to the caravan, were backed overboard; three of them instinctively swam towards the nearest land; the other three swam around the boat until they sank exhausted. A large elephant, belonging to the menagerie, having retreated to a part of the boat which the fire had not reached, mounted his fore-feet upon the rail, in which position he remained till about 4 o'clock - the fire having broken out at 2 p.m. - apparently calculating, with the characteristic sagacity of the animal, the prospects of escape, when it became too hot for him, and he leaped overboard, carrying with him, as he slid down the vessel's side - several of the passengers who were still clinging there. His immense weight probably carried him to the bottom ere he rose, as he re-appeared after some time, at a considerable distance. This animal also instinctively swam towards the nearest land; but as the boat was by this time drifted four or five miles out to sea, he must have perished. The rest of the menagerie, consisting of the lions, tigers, etc., were allowed to become prey to the flames, as, on account of their ferocity, it was deemed dangerous to loose them".

Here is the first eye-witness account received regarding the terrible tragedy of the Ringling-Barnum fire in Hartford., Conn - July 6th. Received from my old friend Billy S. Garvie of that city - and we quote as follows: "Ringling Circus late - July 5th only night show. At Matinee July 6th tent caught fire, with 6,000 inside, after trained animals finished. I was near where it started, in ringside seat, got out safely. It was awful - the mad panic, people and kids, burned and crushed. I thank God I was not hurt. Everything is gone". Fans will have to wait and see what this fire will mean to the Circus for this season -- and future!

I visited the Garden Bros., Circus on Sat. July 1st in Toronto, Canada, and had pleasant visit with Robt. Garden, who showed us every courtesy. Spent much time in Terrell Jacobs Dressing Room and talked of the forthcoming Convention (1945). Terrell said to remember him to all Members, and to say that he is planning on doing his share to make the Convention a happy one for all who attend". The enclosed Terrell Jacobs Circus ticket is given through his courtesy.

W. W. Tyson, President,
C.H.S.